

SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR UNIVERSAL EXTENSIBILITY THAT SUPPORTS A
PLURALITY OF PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLERS

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A method and system is provided for creating applications for one or more types
of programmable logic controllers (PLCs). A open development kit (OKD) is provided
10 that permits dynamic link libraries to be created and interfaced to a user application
software and also to the interface layers of the various types of PLCs. The types of PLCs
may include soft PLCs, slot PLCs, and hard PLCs and interface via slots of a personal
computer platform. The ODK provides generic interfacing to the various types of PLCs
and establishes the necessary operating environment structure to implement processing in
15 either a non-real time and a real time mode. A single application package may then
control and manage the various types of PLCs. Communication paths are provided from
the PLCs to the ODK subsystem to the user application so that the application software is
essentially indifferent to type of PLC involved.

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